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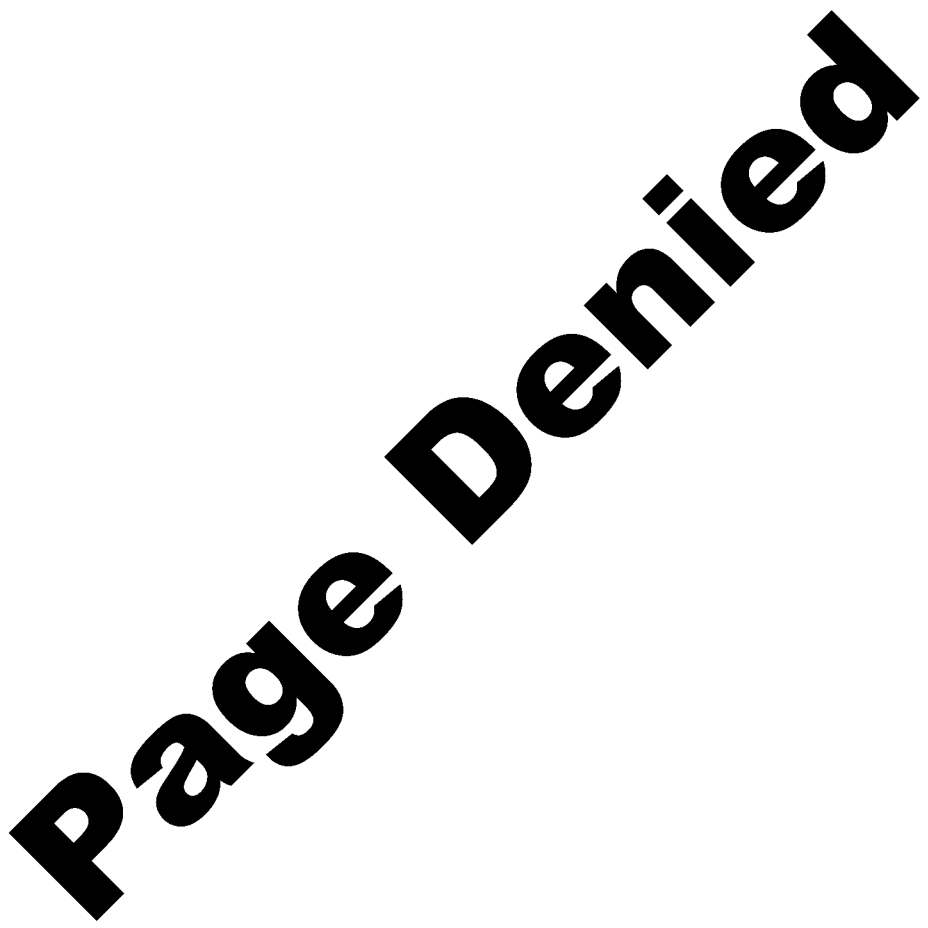

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15 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NSDD-97

1. This date I talked to Bob Helm of the NSC about a recent memo that we received from Robert Kimmitt. I expressed my concern that the memo and a conversation Helm had with John McMahon implied that Agency OC was in some way subservient to the NCS. I pointed out to Helm that the Agency OC was an independent entity and while we are a member of the NCS we are in no way subservient. Helm readily agreed with this and felt there was certainly no other impression by anyone at the NSC.

2. Helm subsequently briefed the NCS Principals on yesterday's first meeting of the NSDD-97 Steering Group. The meeting was attended by both Judge Clark and Secretary Weinberger as well as the President's Scientific and Technical Advisor. A fourth member, the OMB representative, was not present but sent an alternate. The Group decided that a non-classified version of NSDD-97 will be prepared so that wider industry knowledge of the goals would exist. In his briefing Helm emphasized that the Steering Group intends to call in various agencies for representation as required and assured the Principals of the NCS that the Steering Group looked upon the NCS as a forum and not a controlling mechanism. Helm also said that "the objective (of the Steering Group) is not to tell agencies what to do to support their own missions" but to assure an interoperable survivable communications system exists within the government. I believe that Helm made these statements in direct reply to my earlier questions to him.

3. Three recommendations will result from yesterday's Steering Group meeting: (1) A draft Executive Order will be prepared stating that the NCS will be developed as the central government forum for NSDD-97 discussions. (2) The ECWG (Emergency Communications Working Group) and the NCS seem to have considerable duplication. Judge Clark proposes to merge the 11 NCS members and the 19 ECWG members into a new larger NCS.

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SUBJECT: NSDD-97

He directed the Executive Agent of the NCS to study how this will be accomplished. (3) There is still dissatisfaction with the manning arrangements of the NCS. Judge Clark recommended that Agencies step up to their agreed responsibilities and provide adequate personnel to the NCS. (In unrelated but separate conversations with [redacted] and with the Chief of Operations, NCS before and after the Principles meeting, they were both very complimentary to CIA concerning our cooperation vis-a-vis staffing and the quality of the personnel that we have provided.) 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Chief, Management and Liaison Staff, OC

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Date

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